(a) whether it is a fact that due to some irate armymen including a Captain rail services on the 30th July, 1993 in Jammu and Pathankot sections of the Northern Railways were suspended causing hardships to the passengers; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 30-7-93 at about 14.35 hrs. an army officer of 49 Regiment Light Infantry, a passenger of Gorakhpur Express approached on duty Assistant Station Master, Jammu Tawi for luggage trolly. The Assistant Station Master informed him that the trollies were available downstairs. There was some altercation between them. The army officer used foul language. Meanwhile about 40-50 military personnel available at the platform gathered at the spot. The Army personnel went on rampage and caused extensive damage to railway properties. They pelted stones at Railway employees who gathered there, injuring four of them. On receipt of the information Senior Railway, Military, Civil and Police Officials reached the site and brought the situation under control.

The army officer was handed over to Core of Military Police. Meanwhile, the Railway staff went on strike which was called off at 21.10 hrs. The Government Railway Police, Jammu Tawi registered a case u/s 332, 452, 147, 148 and 427 IPC vide FUR No. 7/93. The army authorities hive also deployed six personnel from the Core of Military Police each in three shifts at Jammu Tawi Station from 1-8-93.

Losses suffered by Railways

4113. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have suffered a revenue loss of crores of rupees in the first quarter of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the estimated revenue loss suffered by the Railways:

(c) the areas in which the loss has been suffered stating the reasons; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government in mis regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) There has been a Shortfall of Rs. 232.13 crores as compared to the target.

(c) and (d) The shortfall in revenue earnings mainly pertains to Goods traffic and is attributable to less offerings of traffic from the core sectors. Aggressive marketing strategies, tri-partite discussions with important users of transport and their coordination with concerned Ministries are being resorted to for improving the position.

Facility of Pantry Car in Mangala Express Train

4114. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minis
ter of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that a newtrain 2617/ 2618 Mangala Express from Hazrat Nizamud-din to Mangalore has recently been introduced.

(b) whether it is also a fact that this train which takes about 54 hours to reach Mangalore has no facility of Pantry Car which is a minimum facility required for the convenience of Passengers in such long distance trains;

(c) if so, by when Government propose to operate a Pantry Car in this train; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (d) 2617/2618 Mangala Express has been introduced from 1-7-93 between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Mangalore. While it is planned to provide a Pantry Car on this service, the same has not been found feasible for the present due to acute shortage of Pantry Cars. In the meanwhile the catering requirements of the passengers are suitably met from the static catering units enroute.

Wages Escalation data of CMS Crossings

4115. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has withdrawn the letter in respect of wages escalation claim in respect of C. S. crossings written to Ministry of Finance, cost account branch;

(b) who was responsible for writing this letter and what action has been taken against him;

(c) what are the details of the report of the

cost account branch which have been acceptea by allowing 10 time escalation claim over what was actually due; and

(d) what steps are being taken to investigate the matter and why did the cost account branch recommend wages escalation 10 times?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) The Chief Adviser (Cost), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, in his report No. 1354/ CAL/6842, dated 20-1-1987 has recommended wage escalation claim in respect of a firm engaged in the manufacture and supply of CMS crossings, based on escalation factor of 0.1%. However, in the subsequent report No. 144/ CAL/7081, dated 29-6-1990 in respect of wage escalation claim of another firm engaged in manufacture and supply of the same item, Chief Adviser (Cost) recommended wage escalation, worked out on the basts of actual data rather than adopting 0.1% as done earlier. Both the methods of arriving at wage escalation are provided in the contract agreement. After examining the entire issue, the Ministry of Railways decided that the wage escalation factor should be based on verification of actual data by the Chief Adviser (Cost).

रीवां-अघवारा-ब्योहारी के लिए नई रेल लाइन का सर्वेक्षण

4116. श्री लालजी राम अग्रवाल :
श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रीवां-अघवारा-ब्योहारी की नई रेल लाइन के सर्वेक्षण में इस लाइन की योजना को लाभप्रद पाया गया; यदि हां, तो यह निष्कर्ष किस आधार पर निकाला गया था;

(ख) क्या रेल मंत्रालय आदिवासी बहुल क्षेत्रों के नागरिकों को रेल सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से समय-समय पर वित्तीय दृष्टि से अव्यवहार्य योजनाओं को भी शुरू करता रहा है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या रेल मंत्रालय इसी मापदण्ड के आधार पर उक्त रेल लाइन को स्वीकृति प्रदान करने के संबंध में पुन: विचार करेगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० जी० बोंका) : (क) जी हां, प्रस्तावित नई लाइन की वित्तीय दृष्टि से 7.63 प्रतिशत प्रतिफल की लाभप्रद दर के कारण ।

(ख) और (ग) योजना आयोग की स्वीकृति प्राप्त हो जाने पर तथा आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में रहने वाली जनता की आकांक्षाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए, संभावित यातायात की मात्रा के अनुसार तब की गई प्राथमिकताओं के साथ-साथ संसाधनों की उपलब्धता के अनुसार रेल लाइनों का पिछड़े क्षेत्रों तक उत्तरोत्तर विस्तार किया जा रहा है ।

संसाधनों की स्थिति में सुधार होने पर भविष्य में इस लाइन के निर्माण के बारे में विचार किया जाएगा ।

Contracts of Railways Canteens in Northern/ Eastern Railways

4117. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of contracts of Railway canteens given in Northern/Eastern Railways during 1992-93; and

(b) the number of contracts given to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe people during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) During 1992-93, 50 catering/vending contracts were awarded on the Northern Railway, out of which six were given to the persons belonging to SC/ST. As regards Eastern Railway information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Deputing Officers for Training in U.S.A.

4118. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it *is* a fact that Railways have decided to depute 25 officers for training in 'Planning and Execution of Fabrication Methods' to U.S.A.:

(b) how many of them belong to SC/ST; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a Senior Grade Officer of SC was denied this opportunity on flimsy grounds during March last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K_ C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The officer could not be spared due to pressing administrative reasons.

Drop in Revenue Earnings of Railways

4119. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a steep drop despite peak passenger traffic in revenue earnings of Railways during first quarter of 1993-94, if so, what are the reasons therefor?